

SAMPLE APPLICANT LETTER

4100/6840

Dear _____,

On August 30, 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a "Proposed Determination of Critical Habitat for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise" in the Federal Register (58 FR 45746-45768). Pursuant to 50 CFR 402.16(d), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required to initiate consultation, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, on Federal actions that may affect proposed/designated critical habitat. The regulations at 50 CFR Part 402 also provide an opportunity for grazing permittees, and others who qualify as applicants, to submit pertinent biological information that may influence the outcome of Section 7 consultations.

By this letter, BLM is providing you and other potentially affected grazing permittees with notice that we are preparing a *Programmatic Biological Evaluation for the Interim Management of Livestock Grazing in Critical Habitat for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise* and that we intend to request formal conference/consultation, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, concerning BLM's proposed interim livestock grazing management program for allotments that overlay tortoise critical habitat. Additionally, BLM intends to identify specific time frames by which it expects to develop and implement Land Use Plan decisions to achieve goals and objectives of the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan.

We anticipate that our request to reinstate formal consultation will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by December 15, 1993. Accordingly, should you have biological data that are pertinent to BLM's analysis of the effects of livestock grazing on desert tortoise critical habitat, we are requesting that you submit this information to BLM at the address shown below by December 1, 1993.

(your District or Area Manager)
(your District Office or Area Office address)

You may also send copies of this biological information, and any comments you may have, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the following address:

Field Supervisor, Ventura Field Office
Ventura Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003

----- (Signature Authorized Officer)